



Hazardous Waste Education Fee - 2004

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Important!

Check out Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/edfees/index.html> This site contains a list of commonly asked questions and answers about the fee and other helpful information. Submit your request for a fee waiver online. This may save you a call.

The Hazardous Waste Education Fee funds programs that help businesses learn about the benefits of reducing hazardous waste and complying with state and federal hazardous waste regulations.

State law

(Chapter 173-305 WAC, Hazardous Waste Fee Regulation) requires you to pay a fee each year to help businesses - particularly small ones - find ways to prevent environmental pollution. The current \$46 fee, as established in Chapter 173-305-110 WAC and RCW 70.95E.040 provides funds for waste reduction activities like conducting workshops, providing phone and on-site consultation services, and developing literature on pollution prevention.

Who pays the fee?

The Hazardous Waste Education Fee applies to businesses that generated any quantity of hazardous waste during **2003**. You received a bill because your business is classified in a business code as one that typically generates hazardous waste, **and** the value of your products, gross proceeds of sales or gross income exceeded \$12,000 in **2003**.

What is "Hazardous Waste?"

Ecology considers wastes as hazardous when they have properties that endanger human health or the environment. A regulated waste can be on a federal or state list and exhibit federal or state classification criteria (see Chapter 173-303-081, sections 081, 082, 090, and 100 WAC). The following are examples of some of these waste streams, along with the characteristics that make them "hazardous:"

Waste Streams

battery acid, sodium hydroxide, drain cleaner

paint thinner, spent solvents, spilled fuel (gasoline, diesel)

explosives, cyanides, hypochlorides

used antifreeze, heavy metals, photo processing wastes, pesticides, herbicides

Characteristic Corrosivity

Ignitability

Reactivity

Toxicity

How is hazardous waste generated?

Many businesses and industries create hazardous wastes as they provide a service or product to their customers. Some products you might use are hazardous from the start, while others pick up contaminants as you use them. It must be noted that many businesses manage their waste streams properly and are to be commended for this effort. However, proper management does not negate the fact that the waste was generated and you are still subject to the fee. The funds raised will provide opportunities for staff to assist you in further reducing your waste streams, or instruct others in proper waste reduction and management. This will promote our common goals of environmental protection.

A partial list naming some sources of hazardous wastes appears below:

- ✓ **Painting** - paints, solvents, paint and lacquer thinners, empty containers with residuals of hazardous materials, demolition debris, fungicides
- ✓ **Gas Stations/Pumps** - spilled or leaked gasoline and other fuels, oils and oil additives, oily rags
- ✓ **Cabinetry** - waste adhesives, paints, thinners, finishes
- ✓ **Parts Cleaning** - solvents, acids, caustics, shop rags

- ✓ **Equipment Fueling, Maintenance or Repair** - solvents, used oil, used antifreeze, paints, spilled or leaked gasoline and diesel fuel
- ✓ **Machining** - solvents, coolants, cutting oil, shop rags
- ✓ **Heavy Machinery Operation** - oils, coolants, solvents, shop rags
- ✓ **Printing** - inks, solvents, shop rags
- ✓ **Photo Processing** - silver, developer, fixer
- ✓ **Janitorial and Ground Maintenance** - cleaners, waxes, pesticides, paints, spent fluorescent tubes
- ✓ **Construction** - adhesives, paints, solvents, empty containers with residuals of hazardous materials
- ✓ **Pesticide Applications** - waste pesticides, containers
- ✓ **Warehouse Maintenance Activities** - out of date chemicals, residues, spills, spent fluorescent tubes

When is the fee due?

Businesses must pay the fee by **June 30, 2004**. We have enclosed a return envelope with a pre-printed return address to help make payment easier. *Important: Make sure to enclose the billing statement with your payment or we may be unable to credit your account!*

I know my business did not generate hazardous waste during last year. Do I still have to pay the fee?

No. Only businesses that generate hazardous waste must pay this fee, but you must write to Ecology and request a review of your fee status.

How do I request a waiver?

If you believe you did not generate hazardous waste in **2004**, check out Ecology's Education Fee web site listed on the front page. Click on the e-mail waiver form, fill it out completely and send it back to us for evaluation. If you mail back a request in the return envelope, include:

- ✓ a signed letter describing all business activities for 2003;
- ✓ a call back telephone number, in case we have questions; and
- ✓ the billing coupon attached to the letter.

Waiver requests must be mailed by June 30, 2004.

Do I need to call Ecology first?

No. If you know the fee does not apply to you, just submit your request for staff review. Ecology will review your request and contact you with any questions or concerns. **Please refer to the web site and review the list of commonly asked questions and answers to help you make your decision.** If, after reviewing the material, you are still not sure if you need to pay the fee, call the toll-free phone number listed in this fact sheet and on the web site, or e-mail your questions to hazwasteedfee@ecy.wa.gov We will help you make the determination. However, fee waivers will not be granted by phone, only by written letter or e-mail request.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Call the Department of Ecology at **1-800-633-7585**. *Make sure to have the billing coupon in front of you.* You will need to refer to two important numbers printed on the coupon — your Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code and your Department of Revenue (DOR) Tax Identification Number.

The toll-free number places you into a voice answering system designed to connect you with a staff person who can answer your questions. Follow the instructions provided in the box below if you need to make the call.

To Call the Hazardous Waste Education Fee Hotline:

1. Dial 1-800-633-7585. You may either listen to the introductory message or bypass it by pressing "4."
2. Press "4" to reach the Hazardous Waste Education Fee menu, if you haven't already.
3. Look at your billing coupon. Find the four-digit SIC Code printed above your name and address.
4. Look at the first digit of your SIC Code number.
Is the number 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5? **PRESS 1**
Is the number 6, 7, 8, or 9? **PRESS 2**
5. You will be connected with an Ecology staff person. He or she may ask for your nine-digit DOR Tax Identification Number. You can find it above your name and address on the coupon. The staff person will use this number to verify the status of your fee account.



Department of Ecology Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program Free Help for Businesses

Madison Carnolia Cleaners provides dry- and wet-cleaning services in the Magnolia area of Seattle. Dry cleaners commonly use perchloroethylene, a potential carcinogen, in their cleaning processes. Improper disposal of this solvent has contaminated groundwater in many areas of Washington. The business reduced its use of "perc" from 1,300 gallons to less than 95 gallons a year, saving more than \$12,000. The company did this by adding a wet cleaning process, investing in new closed-loop cleaning equipment, and committing to a maintenance and monitoring regimen to prevent releases. One of the best benefits is that employees are exposed to less chemicals. The company is a leader in promoting environmental responsibility.

Many businesses are unaware that some of the materials they work with may contain hazardous substances that endanger human health and the environment. The Department of Ecology provides information to all businesses to promote pollution prevention and effective waste management.

Ecology maintains regional offices in Bellevue, Lacey, Spokane and Yakima. Toxics reduction professionals in each location provide technical assistance to all Washington businesses, industries and governmental agencies. These experts offer you **non-enforcement** assistance to help with your pollution prevention efforts. They can also explain the requirements of the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*. Many businesses have successfully reduced the amount of waste they generate by working closely with our staff.

Hands-on Help to Business

Ecology staff can help you by providing:

On-site assistance

Toxics reduction specialists are trained to help solve specific waste reduction and waste management issues. They can also help you understand Washington's dangerous waste rules.

Phone Consultation

Over the phone, you can get general advice on pollution prevention methods and regulatory compliance.

Watson Furniture Group manufactures office and public-safety workstations and storage systems at its facility in rural Kitsap County. The company significantly reduced its use of toxic substances, and the possible release of volatile organic chemicals by substituting solvent-based adhesives with non-toxic alternatives, replacing spray painting with powder coating, and cleaning metal parts with a closed-loop pressurized system. Watson Furniture Group also buys materials that have recycled content and are recyclable, including fabrics with 100 percent recycled or reclaimed content and particleboard made from reclaimed industrial waste. It ships its products in reusable blanket wraps.

Printed Information

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program publishes many documents that cover pollution prevention methods for your industry.

For example, 25,000 businesses receive the *Shoptalk* newsletter each quarter. This document covers the latest proven techniques for waste reduction. It also offers sound advice on how you can work within regulatory guidelines. To obtain a free copy, call (360) 407-7472.

A list of publication titles, including the series *Success Through Waste Reduction, Volumes I-IV*, can be found on our web site at www.ecy.wa.gov. Call or e-mail Dave Zink (dzin461@ecy.wa.gov) at (360) 407-6752 to obtain a copy of these and other publications, or to subscribe to the *Shoptalk* newsletter.

Outreach to Washington Businesses

We sponsor a variety of workshops and seminars to share information about the pollution prevention successes of others. Many of their techniques can work for you!

Last year, Ecology staff conducted 731 site visits, provided 7,095 phone consultations and sponsored 49 workshops attended by 2,261 participants.

The Benefits of Pollution Prevention

Businesses that use any amount of hazardous materials find that reducing their use of these

products benefits the company and also preserves the environment. Preventing pollution:

- ✓ Improves worker health and safety.
- ✓ Increases cost management and savings, particularly in the areas of waste disposal, business administration, regulatory compliance and potential liabilities.
- ✓ Improves process efficiency.
- ✓ Reduces regulatory requirements.

You can e-mail regional staff for information on the benefits of waste reduction at the addresses listed here:

Western Washington

Northwest Regional Office - Bellevue

Dennis Johnson, Supervisor
Toxics Reduction Unit
E-mail: *djoh461@ecy.wa.gov*

Southwest Regional Office - Lacey

Hugh O'Neill, Supervisor
Toxics Reduction Unit
E-mail: *hone461@ecy.wa.gov*

Eastern Washington

Central Regional Office - Yakima

Brian Dick, Section Supervisor
Toxics Reduction Unit
E-mail: *bdic461@ecy.wa.gov*

Eastern Regional Office - Spokane

Lisa Brown, Supervisor
Toxics Reduction Unit
E-mail: *lbro@ecy.wa.gov*

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/index.html>